

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS  
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

June 6, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua,

Sorry to trouble you again. I would like to ask you if you would be kind enough to send me a couple of stocks of K-12. We need them for a recombination experiment for our summer course, and I would like whatever strains give the most clearcut crossing results with the least complications via syntrophism, etc. Dr. Demerec has a number of your stocks, and I have run a few classical recombination tests using W595 and 58-161, and the results were rather messy -- far too much background growth, both on mixed platings and single platings of each strain. I did not use washed agar, but I don't see how this can be responsible, as none of our auxotrophs give anything like this amount of growth under the same conditions. It is possible that the stocks have not been carried carefully, but rather than taking the time to try to track down the difficulty, I thought it would be best to get fresh stocks, and to make sure that they carry your certification for giving good clean results. We can, of course, use washed agar if necessary, but I understood that good results could ordinarily be obtained without it.

440  
470  
✓  
Our experiment will be limited to obtaining prototrophs, scoring them for phage-resistance and lactose fermentation, and comparing recombination frequencies with yours, so whatever strains you send should have these characters as differentiating markers.

I would be grateful if you could send this material as soon as possible, as our course starts July 17, and we would like to rehearse all the experiments beforehand. Thanks in advance, and regards to all.

Sincerely,

*Evelyn*

Evelyn Witkin